

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190164

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APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 190164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, CI

SUBJECT: RAFAEL GONZALEZ VERDUGO - CONGRESSIONAL LETTER

THE FOLLOWING LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY WAS
PUBLISHED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF JULY 28:

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

"THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASK THAT YOU MAKE
EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO SECURE THE SAFE PASSAGE OF
RAFAEL A. GONZALEZ VERDUGO OUT OF CHILE.

"WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECENTLY
REQUESTED THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE SR.
GONZALEZ'S SAFE PASSAGE, AND HAS MADE KNOWN OUR WILLING-
NESS TO WELCOME HIM AND HIS FAMILY TO THE UNITED STATES.
SINCE NO POSITIVE RESPONSE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING, WE
URGE YOU IN THE STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE TO MAKE FURTHER,
MORE ENERGETIC INITIATIVES IN HIS REGARD.

"WE SEEK SR. GONZALEZ'S RELEASE IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT
LEAVE CHILE WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILD, WHO IS A U.S. CITI-
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PAGE 02 STATE 190164

ZEN, AND SO THAT HE MIGHT APPEAR BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL

SUBCOMMITTEE INQUIRING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
THE MURDER OF CHARLES HORMAN AFTER THE COUP OF SEPT. 1973.

"SR. GONZALEZ HAS PROVIDED THE FIRST CLUE IN THE HORMAN
CASE. HE WAS PRESENT WHEN GENERAL LUTZ ALLEGEDLY
ORDERED THAT HORMAN BE KILLED. HIS TESTIMONY WOULD
BE CRUCIAL IN THIS SERIOUS CASE WHICH INVOLVES THE
MURDER OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"THE GONZALEZ FAMILY DESERVES OUR ASSISTANCE FOR
HUMANITARIAN REASONS AS WELL. THE FAMILY HAS HAD TO
SEEK ASYLUM IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO FOR THE
PAST NINE MONTHS. SR. GONZALEZ BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE
SHOT IF HE LEAVES THIS SANCTUARY AND FEARS EVEN TO GO
INTO THE EMBASSY COURTYARD FOR THE SAME REASON. THE
FAMILY LIVES IN VERY CRAMPED QUARTERS; THEIR SIX-YEAR
OLD SON SUFFERS FROM ANEMIA AND NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION.

"THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT SHOWS NO SIGN THAT IT WILL
GRANT SR. GONZALEZ SAFE PASSAGE WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE
OUTSIDE PRESSURE. WE AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE VERY
INTERESTED IN HIS CASE AND WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
CHILE'S TREATMENT OF SR. GONZALEZ WHEN EXAMINING U.S.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY NEXT YEAR. WE WILL
ENDORSE ANY DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTION ON HIS BEHALF.

"PLEASE ACT PROMPTLY, WE FEAR FOR SR. GONZALEZ'S
LIFE IF YOU DELAY ON THIS MATTER.

"YOURS SINCERELY,

"SGD. MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON, GEORGE MILLER, ANDREW
MAGUIRE, EDWARD I KOCH, TOM HARKIN, HELEN S. MEYNER,
EDWARD MEZVINSKY, DONALD M. FRASER, HERMAN BADILLO,
BELLA S. ABZUG, ANTHONY TOBY MOFFETT, PAUL E. TSONGAS,
ROBERT F. DRINAN, PHILLIP BURTON, FREDERICK W. RICHMOND,
PARREN J. MITCHELL, HENRY HELSTOSKI RONALD V. DELLUMS,
GERRY E. STUDDS, STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, FORTNEY H. (PETE)
STARK, JOHN L. BURTON, BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL."

ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. KISSINGER
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PAGE 03 STATE 190164

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